

FURRY FRIENDS PROMOTE POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

VIRTUAL
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL WORKERS
COUNSELORS
NURSES & CARE PROVIDERS



MAO
Behavioral Health

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

8:15 AM TO 1 PM

Upon completion participants will be able to:

- Provide an overview of the different aspects of the use of animals to support good mental health across the lifespan
- Discuss the benefits of animal assisted therapy for people who are impacted by behavioral health disorders
- Explain the legal considerations pertaining to the use of service animals in community and workplace settings
- Describe how fur babies are used to provide support and comfort to people who are experiencing grief and loss after a suicide
- Discuss how service dogs are trained in Alabama to assist people living with mental health issues

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM *Welcome and Overview of the Day, CE Instructions and Training Evaluation*

Presenter (s): Elana M. Parker Merriweather, Ed.S., LPC, AADC, Director of Behavioral Health, Medical Advocacy and Outreach (MAO)/Copeland Care Clinic

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM *Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy*

Presenter (s): Lauren Harper, BS, Founder, GOAT (Geriatric Organization for Animal Therapy) and Clinical Studies Project Coordinator, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Emma Harper, Student Researcher of Animal Assisted Therapy, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM *A Legal Perspective on the Use of Service Animals in Community Settings*

Presenter: Graham L. Sisson, Jr., Esq., JD, Ph.D., Executive Director and ADA Coordinator, GOOD (Governor's Office On Disabilities) and ADRS (Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services)

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM *A Grief and Loss Perspective on Family Members Affected by Suicide: The Integration of the Fur Baby for Comfort and Support*

Presenter: Belinda Kock, M.Ed., QPR Trainer, Alabama Suicide Prevention and Resource Coalition (ASPARC) and Grief Support Provider, Free to Grieve

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM *A Training Perspective on Service Dogs in Alabama*

Presenter: Francis McGowin MA, Chief Executive Officer, Service Dogs Alabama

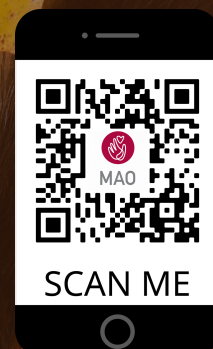
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM *Questions & Answers, Wrap-up, Evaluation Survey & CE Announcement*



SIGN LANGUAGE
INTERPRETATION
AVAILABLE



SEPTEMBER
SUICIDE PREVENTION
MONTH



QUESTIONS? CALL

(334) 673-0494, EXT. 3010

OR EMAIL

KBARNETT@MAOI.ORG

Medical Advocacy & Outreach



Counselors: Medical Advocacy & Outreach (MAO) has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6882. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. MAO is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs. *This activity has been approved for up to 4.50 contact hours for counselors.*

Social Workers: Medical Advocacy & Outreach (MAO) has been approved by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners as a provider of Continuing Education for social workers, Provider No. 0134. Exp. 3/31/2023. *This activity has been approved for up to 4.50 contact hours (clinical) for social workers.*

Nurses: Medical Advocacy & Outreach is an approved continuing education provider of the Alabama Board of Nursing, ABNP 1554, exp. 10/24/2024. *This activity has been approved for up to 4.50 contact hours for nurses.*



ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK
EXAMINERS



SCAN QR CODE
OR VISIT
MAOI.ORG/EVENTS
TO REGISTER!

Computer, tablet or smart phone with stable Internet, camera and microphone required for training.

Participants MUST attend the training in its entirety for contact hour consideration. No partial credit will be awarded.